



TATHASTU ICS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



AUGUST 25, 2023

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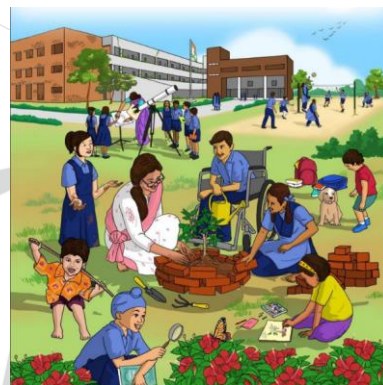
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NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION (NCF-SE)

SOURCE: [TH](#), [PIB](#), [IE](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** has unveiled the final version of the **National Curriculum Framework**.
- The framework, named the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE), aligns with the **5+3+3+4 educational structure** suggested in the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020).
- The NCF aims to completely transform school syllabi nationwide.
- A steering committee led by former ISRO chairman **K. Kasturirangan** was responsible for the **development of the NCF**.



KEY POINTS OF NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK:

1. **Thorough Curriculum Coverage:** The NCF-SE extensively addresses all four schooling stages. The complete curriculum framework spanning the **Foundational, Preparatory, Middle, and Secondary Stages has been unveiled**.
2. **Knowledge, Skills, and Values Development:** The curriculum places emphasis on genuine comprehension of knowledge, essential skills like critical thinking and creativity, and foundational values, both constitutional and ethical.
3. **Integration of Vocational Education:** As per NEP 2020's recommendation, Vocational Education is integrated into school education, with the NCF-SE incorporating specific learning standards, content, teaching methods, and assessments for all schooling levels.
4. **Tailored Content Pedagogy:** For Grades 6 to 8, the NCF outlines content proportions from local, regional, national, and global sources in the Social Science curriculum.
5. **Emphasis on Multilingualism and Indian Languages:** The NCF-SE highlights the importance of multilingualism and learning indigenous Indian languages.
6. **Altered Language Learning Approach:** Students in Grades 9 and 10 will be required to study three languages, with at least two being native to India. In Grades 11 and 12, they will learn two languages, including one of Indian origin.
7. **Modified Language Curriculum:** The current norm involves two languages in Grades 9 and 10, and one language in Grades 11 and 12.
8. **Dual Board Exams Annually:** All students are permitted to take Board exams twice per academic year, with the best score being retained.

9. **Enhanced Mandatory Subjects:** Formerly, Grades 9 to 12 had five mandatory subjects with an optional additional subject. Now, Grades 9 and 10 encompass seven, and Grades 11 and 12 entail six mandatory subjects.
10. **Optional Subjects Grouped:** Optional subjects are categorized into three groups within the NCF. The **first group emphasizes** art education, including both visual and performing arts, focusing on creation, contemplation, and appreciation of artwork. The **second group** involves Social Science, Humanities, and interdisciplinary fields. The **third group** encompasses Science, Mathematics, and computational thinking.
11. **Transition to Semester-based Testing:** The NCF proposes a shift to semester or term-based testing across all boards. This allows testing as soon as a subject is completed, reducing the content burden in each examination.
12. **Emphasis on Environmental Education:** Addressing challenges like climate change, biodiversity decline, and pollution, the NCF places significant importance on Environmental Education across schooling stages.

IMPORTANT COMMITTEES RELATED TO EDUCATION DURING THE BRITISH ERA IN INDIA:		
Committee Name	Year	Purpose/Significance
Macaulay's Minutes	1835	Advocated English education and reduced emphasis on traditional Indian knowledge systems.
Woods Dispatch	1854	Introduced a comprehensive plan for education in India, emphasizing grants for education and creation of educational departments.
Hunter Commission	1882	Recommended government control over education and expansion of primary education.
Indian Universities Act	1904	Brought reforms to Indian universities, including enhancing representation, finance, and academic freedom.
Saddler University Commission	1917-1919	Focused on university education, suggesting improvements in administration, curriculum, and faculty.
Hartog Committee	1929	Addressed the issues of overcrowded classrooms and curriculum changes in primary education.
Sargent Committee	1944	Proposed post-war educational reconstruction, emphasizing vocational training and adult education.

SIGNIFICANCE OF NCF / WAY FORWARD:

- The creation of the NCF-SE was driven by the aim to **synchronize education with the requirements of the 21st century** and the **principles of the Indian knowledge structure**.
- The framework presents a **cross-disciplinary education approach**, cultivating principles, promoting innovative teaching methods, and equipping students for real-world issue-solving.
- This initiative will assist India in crafting a comprehensive, modern, and culturally embedded educational environment.
- Renewed emphasis is placed on **multilingualism**, grasping fundamental concepts in Mathematics, and nurturing abilities for scientific investigation.

TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

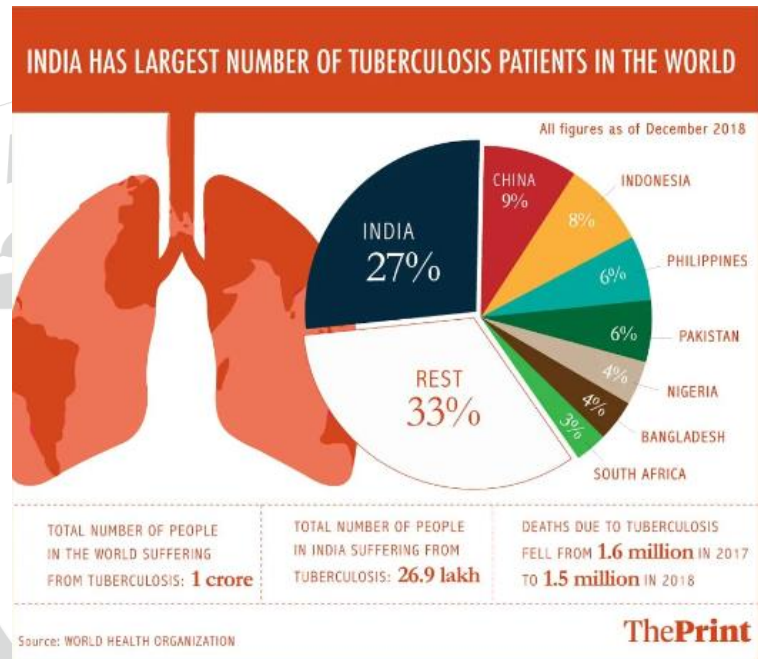
SOURCE: [TH](#) , [IE](#) , [BUSINESS NEWS](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- India is facing a severe shortage of tuberculosis (TB) drugs, including those used for drug-resistant TB such as Linezolid, Clofazimine, and Cycloserine.
- The shortage of TB medicines, for both drug-sensitive and drug-resistant TB, began last year and has persisted for about a year.

ABOUT TB:

- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium known as **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**.
- In humans, TB predominantly affects the **lungs (pulmonary TB)**, but it can also impact other organs (**extra-pulmonary TB**).
- The **transmission** of TB occurs through **airborne means**, spreading from one person to another.
- **Typical symptoms** include a **cough with sputum, sometimes containing blood, chest discomfort, weakness, weight loss, fever, and night sweats**.
- The **majority of TB cases emerge in adults**. As of **2021, 56.5% of the TB cases were among men, 32.5% among adult women, and 11% among children**.
- Several **key risk factors** contribute to new TB cases: **malnutrition, HIV infection, alcohol misuse, smoking, and diabetes**.
- **TB is both preventable and treatable**. Approximately 85% of those affected can be successfully treated with a 4 to 6-month drug regimen.
- First-line antitubercular medications, such as **rifampin, isoniazid, pyrazinamide, and ethambutol**, are FDA-approved and prescribed to combat Mycobacterium tuberculosis infections.



TB BURDEN:

1. As per the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, in 2021, there were **1.6 million TB-related deaths, including 187,000 individuals with HIV co-infection**.
2. According to the **India TB Report 2023**, the year **2022 witnessed the notification of 2.42 million cases, marking a 13% rise compared to 2021**.
3. **India** is responsible for **over a quarter of the global TB cases**.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES:	
Measures	Description
Revised National TB Control Program (RNTCP)	The government's flagship program for TB control, focusing on detection, treatment, and prevention.
Nikshay Poshan Yojana	A nutritional support scheme for TB patients, providing financial aid to patients during treatment.
Swasthya Sathi Yojana	Offers health insurance coverage to citizens, including TB patients, for better access to treatment.
TB Free India Campaign	An awareness campaign to promote understanding, prevention, and early detection of TB.
Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS)	A strategy where a healthcare worker directly observes a patient taking their medication.
Free Diagnosis and Treatment	Free diagnostic tests and medications provided to TB patients through various health facilities.
Jan Aushadhi Kendras	Government-operated outlets offering generic medicines, including TB drugs, at affordable prices.
Mobile TB Testing Units	Mobile vans equipped for on-the-spot testing, particularly in remote and underserved areas.
National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination	A comprehensive strategy focusing on diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of TB.

CHALLENGES IN ERADICATING TB:

- **Substantial Burden of TB Cases:** According to the **Global TB Report 2022**, India is responsible for **28% of the total global TB cases**, posing challenges in promptly identifying and treating all cases.
- **Drug-Resistant TB Prevalence:** India grapples with a notable burden of drug-resistant TB, which is more complex and expensive to manage compared to regular TB. Incomplete antibiotic use and inconsistent treatment adherence have led to the emergence of drug-resistant strains.
- **Limited Healthcare Accessibility:** A significant portion of India's population, especially in rural regions, lacks access to quality healthcare or

Source: MyGovIndia

cannot afford medical assistance. Consequently, diagnosis and treatment may experience delays, fostering TB spread.

- **Stigma and Social Isolation:** TB continues to carry a stigma in India, dissuading individuals from openly discussing their condition or seeking care due to the fear of discrimination or social exclusion.
- **Challenging Living Conditions:** Congested living environments, **inadequate sanitation**, and **absence of clean water access** heighten the risk of TB transmission.
- **Awareness Deficit:** Many individuals in India **lack awareness regarding TB symptoms** and the significance of completing the full treatment course. This knowledge gap contributes to diagnosis and treatment delays, promoting TB dissemination.
- **Funding Shortfalls:** Despite being a major health concern in India, TB often faces insufficient funding and neglect from policymakers and healthcare providers.

WAY FORWARD:

- **Establish Comprehensive TB Control:** Develop a holistic TB control plan with early detection, efficient treatment, and ongoing follow-up care.
- **Improve Healthcare Access:** Focus on expanding healthcare availability, especially in rural areas with limited access.
- **Increase Financial Support:** Prioritize TB prevention and treatment, allocating more funds for research, prevention efforts, and treatment initiatives.
- **Target High-Risk Groups:** Introduce programs to prevent TB among vulnerable populations like healthcare workers, those with HIV, and homeless individuals.
- **Raise Public Awareness:** Launch awareness campaigns through media, communities, and social platforms to educate about TB symptoms, transmission, and prevention.
- **Reduce Stigma and Bias:** Collaborate with community leaders, healthcare providers, and affected individuals to combat social stigma and encourage acceptance.
- **Enhance Living Conditions:** Improve living standards in crowded and disadvantaged areas to reduce TB transmission risk.
- **Invest in Research:** Allocate resources to research and innovation, including new diagnostic tools and treatments like AI-based lung hotspot detection.
- **Foster Collaborations:** Partner with other nations and global organizations to share expertise, best practices, and resources for effective TB control.

MISSION AMRIT SAROVAR

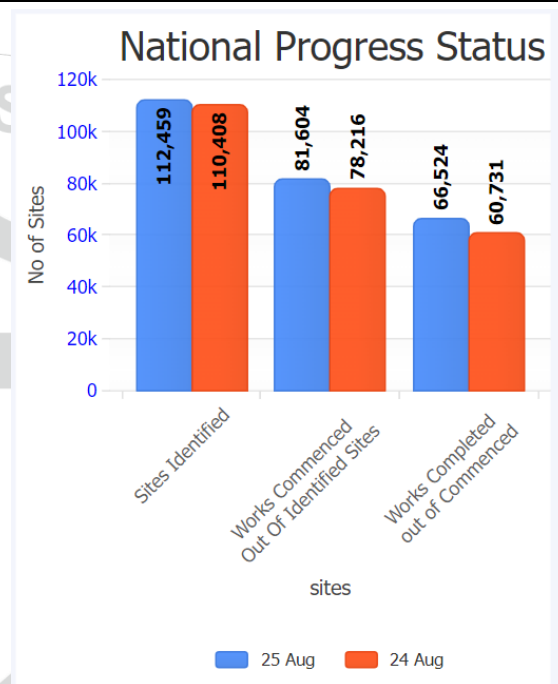
SOURCE: [PIB](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

States are progressing towards creating 75 Amrit Sarovars per district, although some districts in specific states are yet to meet the target. Out of 112,277 identified Amrit Sarovars, work has begun on 81,425, with 66,278 constructed or rejuvenated. The Mission Amrit Sarovar, launched in April 2022, aims to establish sustainable water sources, involving multiple ministries and partnerships, and utilizing various schemes.

ABOUT MISSION AMRIT SAROVAR:

1. Launched on **April 24, 2022**, during **India's 75th independence anniversary celebrations**, Mission Amrit Sarovar was initiated.
2. The mission's primary goal is to **establish or renew 75 Amrit Sarovars in each district** to address water scarcity in rural regions.
3. This target is crucial in achieving **localized water sustainability**.
4. **Eight Central Ministries/Departments**, including Rural Development, land resources, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Water resources, Panchayati Raj, Forest, Environment and Climate changes, Railway, and Road, Transport & Highways, actively participate.
5. The mission **collaborates with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) as its technical partner**.
6. **BISAG-N operates as an autonomous scientific society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, utilizing geospatial data and technology to identify and execute Amrit Sarovar construction and rejuvenation.



CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING THE MISSION:

1. **Resource Allocation:** Adequate funding, manpower, and equipment are required for construction and rejuvenation efforts.
2. **Geographical Variation:** Diverse landscapes demand adaptable strategies for different regions.
3. **Community Participation:** Engaging communities and ensuring their involvement poses a challenge.
4. **Technical Expertise:** Skilled professionals are needed for effective planning and execution.
5. **Land Issues:** Land acquisition and legal hurdles can impede progress.
6. **Climate Uncertainty:** Changing climate patterns can affect water availability.
7. **Sustainability:** Maintaining and managing water bodies for the long term is crucial.
8. **Monitoring Complexity:** Efficient monitoring across districts requires robust mechanisms.
9. **Inter-Ministerial Coordination:** Collaborating with multiple ministries necessitates coordination.

OTHER GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR WATER SUSTAINABILITY:	
Initiative	Description
Jal Jeevan Mission	Aims to provide tap water to every rural household by 2024, with a focus on water conservation. It emphasizes the importance of local community involvement in water management.
Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)	While primarily focused on sanitation and hygiene, this mission indirectly contributes to water quality improvement through the promotion of clean surroundings and safe disposal of waste.
National Rural Drinking Water Programme	Aims to provide safe drinking water to rural areas through source strengthening, groundwater management, and the adoption of water quality monitoring practices.
Namami Gange	Launched for the cleaning and rejuvenation of the Ganga river and its tributaries, this initiative addresses pollution control, water quality improvement, and holistic river management.
Per Drop More Crop	This initiative promotes water-use efficiency in agriculture through micro-irrigation techniques, helping farmers optimize water resources and reduce wastage.
Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)	Focuses on efficient water use in agriculture by improving irrigation practices, enhancing water use efficiency, and increasing agricultural productivity.
Atal Bhujal Yojana	Aims to address groundwater depletion and contamination by promoting sustainable groundwater management practices, focusing on community-led initiatives and technology interventions.
National Water Mission	Part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change, this initiative focuses on water conservation, minimizing wastage, and promoting equitable distribution across sectors.
Watershed Development Projects	These projects work towards enhancing water availability in rain-fed areas by implementing soil and water conservation techniques, ultimately contributing to water sustainability.
Rainwater Harvesting Initiatives	Encourages capturing and storing rainwater for domestic, agricultural, and industrial use, helping in groundwater recharge and reducing reliance on external water sources.
National Mission for Clean Ganga	With a focus on controlling pollution, restoring the ecological health of the Ganga river, and ensuring its continuous flow, this mission contributes to water quality and sustainability.

WAY FORWARD:

- **Community Engagement:** Foster active community involvement through awareness campaigns and participatory planning to ensure a sense of ownership.
- **Technical Training:** Provide training and skill development to local workforce and authorities for efficient execution and management.
- **Advanced Technology:** Incorporate modern tools like geospatial mapping and remote sensing for accurate site selection and progress tracking.
- **Integrated Planning:** Align efforts with existing water management schemes and programs for synergy and resource optimization.

